

REMARKS

I. INTRODUCTION

Claims-1-23 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1-22 have been canceled, claim 23 has been amended as set forth above, and claims 24-36 have been added. In light of the amendments made herein above and the arguments to appear below, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejections set forth below.

II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-22 have been canceled.

Claim 23 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant respectfully submits that support for this amendment can be found throughout the Specification, Drawings, and Claims as originally filed. Accordingly, no new matter has been added as a result of the amendments made to this claim.

Claims 24-36 have been added. Applicant respectfully submits that support for these added claims can be found throughout the Specification, Drawings, and Claims as originally filed. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

III. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-22 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(a) and 103(a)

Claims 1-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over WO 02/099311.

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-22 have been canceled. Accordingly, in light of the cancellation of these claims, Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection is now rendered moot.

IV. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Office has indicated that Claim 23 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In accordance with this

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indication, Applicant has rewritten claim 23 in independent form including all of the limitations of the original base claim and all intervening claims.

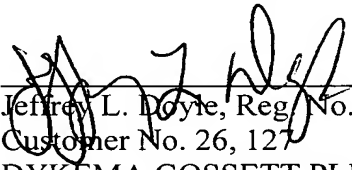
Applicant respectfully submits that claim 23, as amended, is now in condition for allowance, and therefore, respectfully requests that the objection to claim 23 be withdrawn,

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 23-36 are in condition for allowance and hereby respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance of the same. If the Examiner has any further questions regarding this matter, please contact Applicant's undersigned attorney.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: December 14, 2005



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